

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the subject application as amended herein is respectfully requested.

The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended at the interview of August 14, 2006. As discussed at the interview, the present application pertains to a device receiving a multimedia program with an audio and a video component and selectively generating an output signal compatible with a digital audio player, while the program itself is incompatible with the digital audio program. The invention is particularly advantageous for a content producer because the producer can now distribute a multimedia program on a single type of media (e.g. a DVD). The customer can replay either the whole program using a multimedia player, or may elect to listen to the audio component of the program on the audio player. The apparatus can be implemented as a standalone device or can be incorporated into a consumer-oriented device such as a set top box or a DVD player.

The apparatus includes an extractor that receives the multimedia program and extracts from it the audio component without extracting the video component. The audio component is then processed so that it can be provided to and played by a digital audio player. As part of this processing, the second signal may be compressed using one of the well known protocols such as MPEG or ATRAC.

The claims have been amended to recite more clearly the features of the invention.

None of the prior art references cited by the examiner disclose an apparatus having these features. The primary reference on which the examiner has based his rejection is the Inoue reference (U.S. Patent No. 8,580,462). Inoue discloses versatile video receiver. The versatility is provided by an external flash memory 100 that can be used to store information or program that allows the internal processing circuitry to handle broadcast signals with new features or formats. The Inoue device is also provided with an interface 20T through which digital or audio signals can be exchanged with other devices (See col. 8, lines 37-43). Clearly the Inoue device performs a different function and has a different structure than the present invention. More specifically, the reference fails to disclose an apparatus with an extractor that extracts the audio component from the multimedia program without extracting the video component.

It is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention is patentably distinguishable and should be allowed.

Applicant hereby states that by these amendments made hereinabove, no new matter is being added to the subject application.

Applicant respectfully requests entry into the record of the above amendments.

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Respectfully submitted,

GOTTLIEB RACKMAN & REISMAN PC
Attorneys for Applicant
270 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10016-0601
Telephone: (212) 684 3900
Telefax: (212) 684 3999

By: 

WEISZ, Tiberiu
Reg. No. 29,876